

Maryland Numismatist



New Encased Quarters



Details on page 19



***Schenkman to Speak at June
Whitman Expo!***
1 PM on Friday, June 27, 2014
room 301

Summer, 2014 Volume 42 – No. 2

**The
Maryland
State
Numismatic
Association,
Inc.**



The *MARYLAND NUMISMATIST* is the quarterly publication of MSNA and is distributed to all members in good standing without additional cost.

<http://mdstatenumisassn.org>

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President's Message

Although it has taken a while for the weather to warm up, the numismatic market has been hot. MSNA has been active during this time holding our annual exhibits at the March Whitman Expo, planning for the Distinguished Lecture series for the June Whitman Expo, and the raffle that will be held at the November Whitman Expo.



First, I would like to thank MSNA Secretary and Exhibits Chairman Bryce Doxzon for bringing together another successful exhibit session. The exhibits were excellent and well received by those attending the show. I would also like to add special congratulations to Garrett Ziss who won a special Young Numismatist's Best in Show. Garrett shows that the future of the hobby is in good hands.

Congratulations to MSNA Treasurer, editor, and serial exhibitor Simcha Kuritzky for being selected as a 2014 winner of the Glenn Smedley Memorial Award.

The Board voted to become a club member of the Industry Council for Tangible Assets (ICTA). ICTA has begun a program called StateNet to watch legislation that affects dealers in each of the 50 states. As a member, we will work with ICTA to help protect the hobby in Maryland from legislation that would make it difficult for dealers as well as expanding show opportunities.

Looking ahead, I am excited to welcome Dave Schenkman as the speaker in our sixth annual Distinguished Lecturer series. Dave's lecture, "Collecting by the Numbers: A Look at Trade Token Denominations," should be of interest to all collectors wanting to understand more about numismatic history.

Finally, this month we are introducing the MSNA encased quarters as a tribute to the 200th anniversary of Francis Scott Key writing the poem "The Defence of Fort McHenry" (see page 19). Today, the poem is known as the "Star-Spangled Banner." I am very happy with how the encased ring turned out and they will make a wonderful addition to your collection.

Schenkman to Speak in Baltimore

The sixth speaker in the Maryland State Numismatic Association (MSNA) annual Distinguished Lecturer series will be David E. Schenkman, a highly respected numismatist researcher and a recognized authority on U.S. tokens.

Dave started collecting coins in 1949 and by the mid-1950s, while still in high school, was a serious collector of early U.S. coins. In 1960, he became interested in U.S. tokens and has specialized in them ever since. For many years he made a living as a professional numismatist and also as the owner of a company that published and sold numismatic books.



Dave is the author of eight books, each of which is considered a standard reference. He has written more than 100 columns for *The Numismatist*, and numerous articles for other publications. His literary efforts have earned him 24 literary and cataloging awards from the Token and Medal Society, including eight gold Franklin Mint/Segal awards (the only person to win this award more than twice). He is also the recipient of the ANA's Heath Literary Award and the Wayte & Olga Raymond Memorial Literary Award. The Token and Medal Society's highest literary award is now a medal bearing his name. He served as editor for the Token and Medal Society's publications for 27 years, and as publications editor for the Civil War Token Society for five years. Dave is past president of both organizations. He is a contributing editor to *The Numismatist*.

He served as an instructor at the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar for 18 years, teaching courses in U.S. Tokens and Civil War Era Numismatics. Dave is the recipient of the ANA's Glen Smedley award, the Medal Merit, the Lifetime Achievement award, and their highest honor, the Farran Zerbe award.

Dave's lecture title is "Collecting by the Numbers: a Look at Trade Token Denominations". It will be presented at 1 PM on Friday, June 27, 2014 in room 301 of the Baltimore Convention Center during the Whitman Coin Expo.



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Whitman Expo Exhibits

The MSNA exhibit area at the Whitman Baltimore Coin Expo in March held five exhibits by four exhibitors.



Best of Show (1/10 oz. platinum eagle): *Henrietta Szold and Her Legacy: Hadassah and Youth Aliyah* by Simcha Kuritzky. This exhibit was significantly reworked since its 2013 showing, and won the Women in Numismatics and Coins in History awards at the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money in Chicago in 2013.



Master (1/10 oz. gold eagle): *The Faces and Stories Behind the Treasury Signers of U.S. Paper Money* by Garrett Ziss. This exhibit also won a special Young Numismatist's Best in Show award of a Mexico 1945 gold 2 peso coin.



Superior (1/20 oz. gold Mexican): *United States Coast Guard Ships, Planes and More* by William Stratemeyer. This exhibit also won a 2000 gold Liberia \$25 coin from the Maryland Token And Medal Society for best Maryland-related exnumia exhibit.

Appreciation Award of a one ounce silver 1988 MSNA medal went to Exhibit Chairman Bryce Doxzon for his non-competitive exhibit *Baltimore Celebrates the "Star-Spangled Banner" Centennial*. The exhibit *Many Ways to Collect Elongateds* by Simcha Kuritzky was not eligible for an award since there is a limit of one award per exhibitor.

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- Act as personal representative for any numismatic transaction at a maximum commission of 10%
- Appraise collections or individual pieces on an hourly basis
- Assist in the orderly disposition of holdings at current values



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Wigwam, Waldorf, Maryland Token

by David E. Schenkman

During the late 1950s, while serving in Uncle Sam's navy and stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, I was occasionally hired by a local automobile dealer to transport new vehicles. I would take a bus to Silver Spring, Maryland, pick up a new Chevrolet, and drive it back to the dealership. Although I don't recall how much I was paid for a trip, it was significant in relation to my navy salary.

There was just one small problem. My return route took me down Route 301 and through Charles County, Maryland, which was booby-trapped with a large number of establishments proclaiming, on large flashing signs, that there were slot machines inside. There were slots in casinos, groceries, liquor stores, barber shops, and even in gas stations. No matter where I stopped – and I always seemed to have a reason to stop – whatever money I had in my pocket stayed there. It took real willpower just to save enough for a tank of gas.

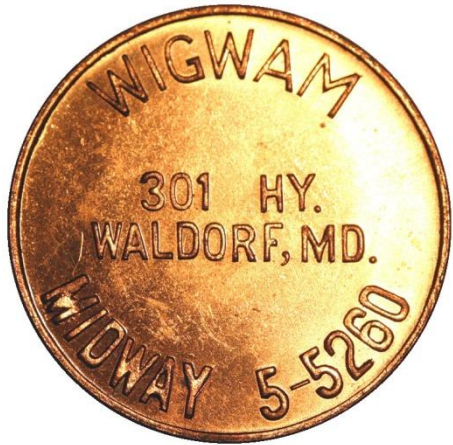
Slot machines were legal in Maryland from 1949 to 1968, and it was big business. According to a 1963 Baltimore Sun article, Maryland had “three times as many federally licensed gambling devices as Nevada.” And a significant percentage of those machines were in Southern Maryland, on a section of Route 301 between Waldorf and the Potomac River bridge that was known by such names as “The Strip,” “Sin City,” and “Little Las Vegas.” The area was described in a 1955 magazine article as “a breeding ground for all forms of immoral and illegal activity.”

The mecca of activity was Waldorf, and one of the most popular establishments in town was the Wigwam, a teepee-shaped casino and restaurant with a huge metal sign in front. The live entertainment offered at the Wigwam and other Waldorf nightspots featured big name stars such as Doris Day, Brenda Lee, Link Wray and the Wraymen, Del Reeves, Guy Lombardo, Dolly Partin, Conway Twitty, and many others.

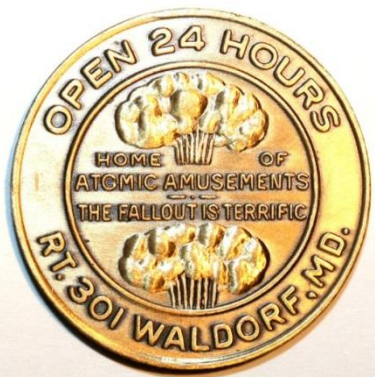
After slots were made illegal in 1968, the Wigwam went out of business. The building was acquired by Wall's Bakery, an establishment that soon became well known for its delicious pies and chocolate éclairs. My wife and I moved to the area in 1970, and we stopped by Walls whenever we

needed a desert for a special occasion. We were never disappointed. Unfortunately all good things come to an end. Walls eventually closed its doors, and in 2010 the old building was demolished.

Recently I was reminded of my slot machine experiences when a local newspaper, the Maryland Independent, ran an article titled “Wigwam sign heads south to safety.” I learned that the old 1950s sign, which featured an Indian and a teepee, had been donated to the Charles County government. It has been erected on route 301, a few miles south of Waldorf, and later this year will be restored to its original glory.



Although there certainly could be others, I only know of two numismatic items from the gambling era of Charles County. One is a 29mm brass token from the Wigwam. The obverse reads WIGWAM / 301 HY. / WALDORF, MD. / MIDWAY 5-5260, while the other side depicts an Indian facing left with LUCKY COIN below.



The other token, also brass and 29mm, depicts a cowboy riding a horse and swinging a lasso in the center, with DON OWENS above and 301 RANCH below. The reverse inscription is OPEN 24 HOURS / HOME OF / ATOMIC AMUSEMENTS / THE FALLOUT IS TERRIFIC / RT. 301 WALDORF, MD. The two designs are evidently supposed to represent atomic explosions. The 301 Ranch had a large neon sign in front of the building on Rt. 301. Above the words 301 / RANCH, the round part of the sign depicted a cowboy on a horse. It spun around to attract customers.

Modern tokens such as these usually have very little monetary value. However, some of them are scarce and therefore quite difficult to locate. And, no matter whether common or rare, they can be interesting numismatic reminders of a bygone era.

I welcome readers' comments. Write to me at P.O. Box 366, Bryantown, MD 20617. If a reply is desired, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Schenkman@money.org

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Focus on the Buffaloes

By Mark Benvenuto, MSNA #R-825

Buffalo nickels have become one of the classic collector coins. They fairly scream American history, they are attractive, they are often affordable, they display a great artistic talent. But there are other ways to collect them besides just pushing nickels into cardboard pages. Let's see what a fresh collection of Buffalo nickels might look like.

Perhaps the easiest way to chop the entire Buffalo nickel series into two entirely unequal pieces is to find one excellent specimen with the buffalo on the mound, and one with the buffalo on the recessed exergue (that little scoop-shaped space under the base line of the reverse). That means you'll need a 1913 for the "on mound" variety, and any date you'd like – including another 1913 – for the "no mound" variety. The good news is that Buffalo nickels came screaming and streaming out of all three Mints in 1913, to the tune of over 60 million from Philadelphia, about evenly split between the two varieties, close to 10 million from Denver, and almost a bit over 3 million from the west coast branch in San Francisco. The bad news is the price tags for good looking specimens from San Francisco. Despite the fact that a million of anything ought to be pretty common, within the sum of each million 1913 nickels, apparently not many of them have remained MS-65 condition coins. If you'd like to spend close to \$4,000 for a single one, by all means, do so. If you'd like to be somewhat more conservative with your money (join the club!), you probably need to look for a lower grade. Or perhaps a different date and mint mark combination is the way to go.

Actually, the high price of a 1913-S "no mound" Buffalo nickel can serve as something of a red flag for us, a marker, as it were. Find a price you'd like to stick with as you purchase your different dates and mint marks, and stick with it, never going over. If nothing else, this is a guaranteed way to avoid buyer's remorse.

So, assuming \$4K is higher than most of us want to shell out for a single nickel, let's look at the very common 1913 from Philly, either as an "on mound" or "no mound" variety. Both are available in the middle MS grades, such as MS-63, for less than \$100. That sounds a bit more palatable when it comes to buying a single, good looking nickel.

Okay, with one of each variety of Buffalo nickel in hand, where do we go next? Do we just whip out a book with plenty of cardboard pages and

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holes in it, and start filling them? Well, while there is nothing wrong with that, why not try a couple of different approaches? First, let's see what we'd have to spend if we just made a collection of Buffalo nickels from the Philadelphia Mint.

Upon looking down any price list or guide, we immediately find that there are no nickels at all from 1922, 1932, 1933, or from Philly in 1938. The middle two years were some of the worst of the Great Depression, and a dwindling production of coinage was wrapped up in that. The other two years don't really have a quick, easy explanation. But the good news in scanning any of the lists is that all the Philly coins are very common, certainly including the 118,997,000 minted in 1936, which can be purchased for about \$20 in a lower MS grade! Not every date will be as low as this, but if a mint state piece from the City of Brotherly Love comes in at \$50, that's still not too bad.

From a core set of Philadelphia minted Buffalo nickels, a person can move out to the 'D' and the 'S' marked coins, again keeping price in mind, and realizing that we may have to step down from the uncirculated grades. Eventually, that will get a person every date and mint mark, with the possible exception of the 1937-D three legged variety (which we shouldn't worry about anyway, as any person skilled with a dental scraper can produce one in about ½ an hour – really!).

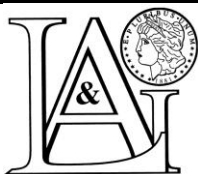
But what happens if we take a detour as it were, and don't worry so much about the mint marks? Let's fast forward to the year 2006, and what is now called the American Buffalo coins that are produced at West Point. In that year, the United States decided to expand its gold bullion coin offerings from the American Eagles, which had been in production from 1986, and produce the American Buffalo, a gold one-ounce coin that was 0.9999 fine. In percentage, that's a coin that is 99.99% gold.

The reason the Congress and the Mint got underway with a new gold coin when it already had one that was perfectly fine is anyone's guess. But the reason they picked the Buffalo nickel design was because Mr. James Earle Fraser had produced a truly amazing, American piece of artistry back in 1913, and it still works today. By making it into a one-ounce coin, the design is now on a huge canvas – at least by the standards of coinage – and the artistry comes through.

Now, if the price of a single one of these gold pieces is a bit too high, skip to 2008, when the Mint moved to a 1/10th ounce, a ¼ ounce, and a

½ ounce version of the coin, as well as the one-ounce piece. Even when the price of gold is high, a 1/10th ounce piece isn't going to be too tough.

There are plenty of ways to build a collection of Buffalo nickels. But matching them up with the new, gold American Buffaloes is a way to bring the classic and the modern together, and to take your collection to a whole new level. Enjoy building a set of your own.

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Sesquicentennial of Our National Motto

By Richard Jewell

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the first appearance of "In God We Trust" on U.S. coinage, when the 1864 two cent piece was authorized. The motto is derived from Francis Scott Key's poem, later renamed the *Star-Spangled Banner*, which includes the line "And this be our motto, 'In God Is Our Trust'". Tom Uram, President of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN), has won awards for his exhibits on two cent pieces for five years at national and regional coin shows. Last year, knowing the historic anniversary was approaching, Tom designed a medal to celebrate the event.

Uram knew basically how he wanted the medal to look. He decided to place the three main characters pivotal in establishing our nation's motto on the obverse. The conjoined portraits of Rev. Mark R. Watkinson from Ridleyville (now Prospect Park) PA, Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase, and James Pollock, two-time director of the U.S. Mint and thirteenth Governor of Pennsylvania. The base of the obverse would have a superimposed keystone within which appears the anniversary dates 1864 and 2014. Pennsylvania is known as "the Keystone State." Inscribed around the top rim is: HONORING 150 YEARS OF OUR NATION'S MOTTO, with IN GOD WE TRUST along the bottom border.

On the reverse is an eagle atop a U.S. shield, with TWO CENTS on a ribbon spanning two laurel branches. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is inscribed around the top border. Wanting to cover all legal aspects in his design process, Uram contacted the U.S. Mint for the approval to use the wording TWO CENTS on his medal. The obverse is based on design elements and preliminary sketches from Tom Uram and graphic artist Pam Forcht.

Now that Uram had his basic outline of his medal, he took it to U. S. Mint engraver and sculptor Don Everhart II for engraving. He also asked Everhart to design the reverse of the medal with suggestions from himself and Pam Forcht. Everhart informed Uram that he would be able to meet the deadline of April 22, the actual anniversary of President Lincoln's signing the Coinage Act of 1864.

Don Everhart called Tom Uram and told him he had completed the plasters a little early and they'd be available in February for his viewing.

Uram approved the plasters and even brought them back to Washington D.C. to have Everhart sign the plasters at the next Citizens' Coinage Advisory Committee meeting they both attended.



The Northwest Territorial Mint is striking the medal in three metallic compositions. The 1.75 inch medal will be in brass with a bronze finish, in copper and in a 2 ounce .999 fine silver versions with 24-karat gold leaf accents. The bronze-finish medal and copper medal are being offered at \$19.95 each plus \$4.95 shipping and handling, and the silver medal has a price of \$149.95 (subject to change with the price of silver), plus \$4.95 for shipping and handling. A mintage of 500 pieces has been established for the brass and copper pieces and an initial 25 pieces for the silver. None of the initial series are numbered. Upon demand the second series of silver medals will be edge marked starting with # 26.

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New Issues



For the bicentennial of the Battle of Baltimore, MSNA has issued new encased Fort McHenry quarters. The quarters are from Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco mints. A set of all 3 mints (the encased design is the same) is \$10; a single P or D mint quarter is \$4; a single S mint is \$4.50. Order them from the editor (see inside cover for email or post office box address, and add \$1

for postage) or pick them up at the Whitman Coin Expo.



The Catonsville Coin Club has issued a wooden nickel commemorating both the 50th anniversary of the club and the 200th year of the Battle of Fort McHenry. These are on standard 39mm blanks printed with green ink. Get yours by mailing 25 cents each plus a self-addressed stamped envelope to P. O. Box 3273 Baltimore, MD 21228-0273.



The Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists, a member of the MSNA, has issued a medal commemorating the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the two cent piece, the first U.S. coin with the motto IN GOD WE TRUST. The 1¾" bronze medals are \$19.95 and silver are \$149.95 plus \$4.95 postage. Order them at www.pancoins.org.

Local News

MSNA Secretary **Bryce Doxzon** won first place in exonumia at the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists Show for his exhibit *Baltimore Celebrates the "Star-Spangled Banner" Centennial*. MSNA Treasurer and Editor **Simcha Kuritzky** won first place in world coins for *Israel's Money and the Second Commandment*. His exhibit *Many Ways to Collect Elongateds* won second place in exonumia.

At the **Washington Numismatic Society**, MSNA Vice President Jack Schadeegg gave a talk on Locating Coins and Relics with a Metal Detector at the March meeting, Martin Solono and Gerry Grezenda talked about Leper Colony Coins at the April meeting, and at the May meeting, WNS President Simcha Kuritzky gave a presentation on Israel's Money and the Second Commandment (concerning graven images).

The **Montgomery County Coin Club** hosted an Alternate Hobby Night at their March meeting, where members talked about their other hobbies. The hobbies discussed included coin banks, Olympic pins, re-enactment clothing and a colonial Maryland flag, a stone hatchet found in Maryland, toy car models, World's Fair memorabilia, glass telephone insulators, birds on postage stamps, watercolor paintings, and a 1974 gold Plymouth Duster. MSNA Live Member Julian Leidman discussed the state of the hobby at the April meeting, and MCCC and MSNA President Scott Barman talked on anti-counterfeit devices in May.

The American Numismatic Association will honor MSNA Treasurer and Editor **Simcha Kuritzky** (among others) with the Glen Smedley Award at the Worlds' Fair of Money. See page 4 for details.

Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
First				Baltimore
Second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, West Maryland, Middle River	Belmar, Catonsville	
Third	Colonial (some- times), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc., Frederick		Baltimore
Fourth	Carroll County	Bowie, Middle River		MSNA Board

What's Your Sign?

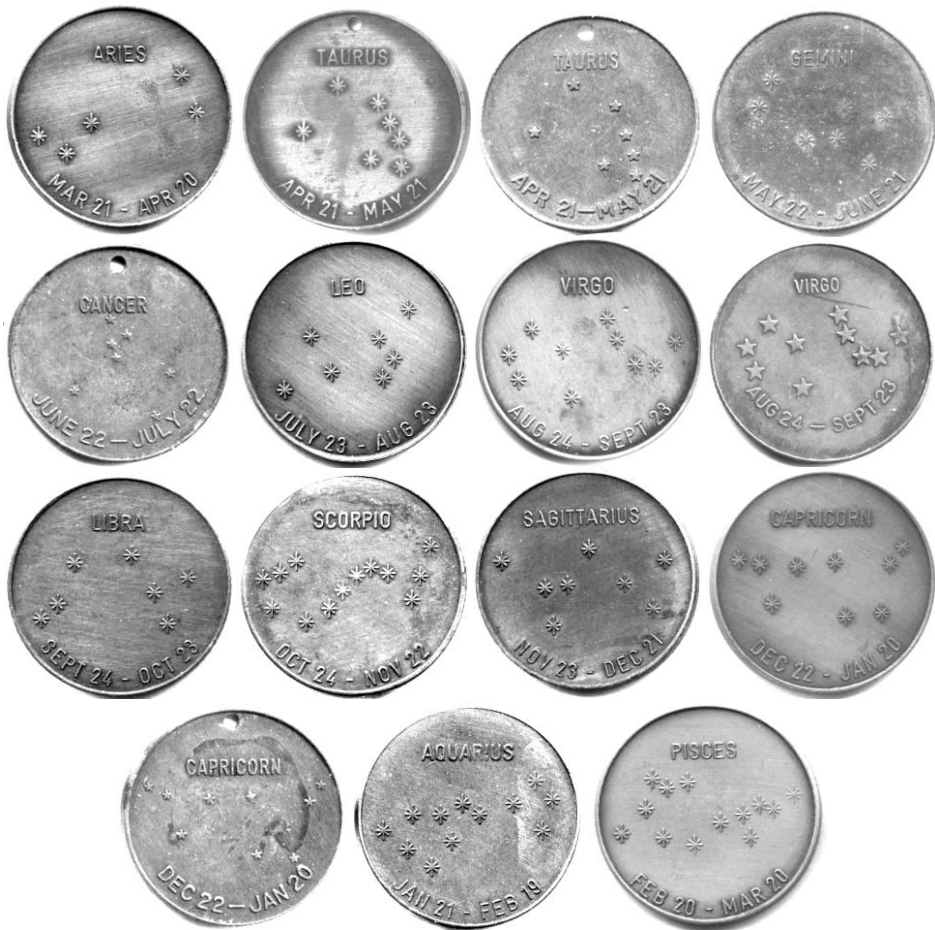
Part Twenty-Two: Minted Coin Medals

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

The next series I have was issued in boxes that use the name "Minted Coin", though that does not appear on the medals themselves. The obverses all have the sign very large with a small Latin name and sigil. The reverses all have the constellation shown in stars with the Latin name at top and begin and end dates at bottom. I have 34mm bronze medals that weigh 13 grams and both bronze and copper-nickel 39mm medals that weigh 24 grams. I have one Pisces medal which is 38mm and noticeably thinner, weighing only 14 grams.



The dies for these medals do not appear to have been produced from a hub because I have seen small differences between different examples, and I don't own many of these medals. I have two 39mm Taurus medals and one has a much larger sigil and narrower bull's head.



There are two distinct reverses. All the 34mm medals I own use 5 pointed stars in the constellation, while almost all the 39mm medals use asterisks (*) with 8 rays (see close-ups below). The only exception to that rule are Virgo medals, which I have in 39mm with both reverses. So it's possible all the 39mm medals have both types of stars. The asterisk reverses have the dates at bottom almost touching the rim while the star reverses have a significant gap between the legend and the rim.





Last time, I described a hybrid medal with a Minted Coin Leo obverse and a design similar to the Pennorama solar system reverse. I have only seen that one specimen.

Zodiac Sign	Dates
♈ ARIES	MAR 21 – APR 20
♉ TAURUS	APR 21 – MAY 21
♊ GEMINI	MAY 22 – JUNE 21
♋ CANCER	JUNE 22 – JULY 22
♌ LEO	JULY 23 – AUG 23
♍ VIRGO	AUG 24 – SEPT 23
♎ LIBRA	SEPT 24 – OCT 23
♏ SCORPIO	OCT 24 – NOV 22
♐ SAGITTARIUS	NOV 23 – DEC 21
♑ CAPRICORN	DEC 22 – JAN 20
♒ AQUARIUS	JAN 21 – FEB 19
♓ PISCES	FEB 20 – MAR 20

I have also found 6 medals with designs almost identical to the Minted Coin medals except the design is shrunk down to 19mm (the reverses are all of the star type) and the rest of the 39mm medal has all 12 sigils surrounding the design on the obverse and all 12 sets of dates on the reverse. These are in both bronze (23 grams) and copper-nickel (24 grams). For both the sigils and dates, the one at top is the one in the main design, so the outsides rotate through the series.

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One peculiar thing about these medals is that the dates shown on around the outside don't agree with those in the main medal design. The outside shows August 23 (actually 8.23) as both the last day of Leo and first day of Virgo, and September 23 (9.23) is shown as both the last day of Virgo and first day of Libra.



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22 June – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

26-29 June – Whitman Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3. *MSNA will sponsor a Distinguished Scholar lecture Friday.*

26 July – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

23 Aug. – Baltimore Friendly Monthly Stamp and Coin Show, Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Rd (I-695 exit 20) Pikesville, MD; 10-4.

24 Aug. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

30-31 Aug. – Interstate Coin Show, Grand Venice Hotel, 431 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

14 Sep. – Annapolis Coin and Currency Show, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2590 Solomon's Island Road (Route 2), Edgewater, MD; 9-4:30.

26 Sep. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

4 Oct. – Maryland Tokens And Medals Society (MTAMS) semi-annual swap meet at Grace United Methodist Church, Northern Parkway and Charles St. Baltimore. noon-3PM. Open to the public, but table holders must be members. Contact Ed Craig 410-284-8382 for tables.

5 Oct. – Westminster Coin and Currency Show, Westminster Fire Hall, 28 John Street, Westminster, MD; 9-4:30.

19 Oct. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Holiday Inn, 9615 Deereco Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

25-26 Oct. – CEO Coins, Currency & Treasurers Ocean City Show, Ocean City (Roland E. Powell) Convention Center, 4001 Ocean Highway & 40th Street, Ocean City, MD; Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4.

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